UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,580	07/12/2001	Shell Sterling Simpson	10007646-1	4266

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EXAMINER
LESNIEWSKI, VICTOR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/905,580	SIMPSON ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Victor Lesniewski	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _12 July 2001_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-38_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-38_ is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) _16 and 17_ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This application has been examined.

2.   Claims 1-38 are now pending.

Claim Objections

3.   Claims 16 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claims 16 and 17 make claim to "the product of claim 10." However claim 10 does not

    state a product and therefore claims 16 and 17 cannot be dependent on claim 10. For the

    purpose of applying prior art it will be assumed that claims 16 and 17 refer to the product

    of claim 15.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adolfsson

(U.S. Patent Number 6,092,078) in view of Zothner (U.S. Patent Number 6,751,657).

6.   Adolfsson disclosed a method and apparatus for interfacing network peripheral devices

with a web browser where the web browser provides the user with a graphical user interface that

allows the user to control different options of the peripherals. In an analogous art, Zothner

disclosed a business rules manager module that associates business rules with actions in terms of

the role of a user in the system. Zothner's system is designed for an object-oriented client-server

environment and Adolfsson's system is exemplary of this type of network.

7.   Concerning claim 1 and the other independent claims, Adolfsson did not explicitly state

that his system could differentiate between interface accessible controls that the user has

permission to access and those that he does not. However, Zothner's system describes a set of

user profiles that help define the role of each user and contain security and permission

information for each user. Since the inventions encompass the same field of endeavor, it would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to

modify the system of Adolfsson by adding the ability to check for user permissions as provided

by Zothner. This would make sense because it would allow a higher degree of management and

security features in Adolfsson's system. Zothner cites the need for this expanded capability in

management as being important to the availability and reliability of network systems (see

column 4, line 62 through column 5, line 12), two features that are very important to Adolfsson's

system for continuously monitoring information. This motivation also applies to those

dependent claims utilizing the same combination.

8.   Some claims will be discussed together. Those claims which are essentially the same

except that they set forth the claimed invention as a computer program product are rejected under

the same rationale applied to the described claim.

9.   Thereby, the combination of Adolfsson and Zothner discloses:

- <Claims 1 and 15>

  A method for mediating access to production options, comprising: acquiring a user's access request for a production device (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 21-24); and providing the user with an interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access (Adolfsson, column 6, lines 6-9 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31).

- <Claims 2 and 16>

  The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises intercepting an access request directed to the production device (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 6-9).

- <Claims 3 and 17>

  The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises redirecting the access request (Adolfsson, column 2, lines 61-63).

- <Claims 4 and 18>

  The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises: accessing data representing production options to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-28 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31); generating an interface according to the accessed data providing user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access; and presenting the user with the generated interface (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 28-32).

- <Claims 5 and 19>

  The method of Claim 4, wherein the act of accessing comprises obtaining credentials for

  the user and locating a user record using the credentials, the user record containing the

  data representing production options to which the user does and/or does not have

  permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8).

- <Claims 6 and 20>

  The method of Claim 4 wherein the act of generating comprises generating the interface

  in the form of a web page and the act of presenting comprises presenting the generated

  web page to a web browser (Adolfsson, column 4, lines 21-23).

- <Claims 7 and 21>

  The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises: retrieving an interface

  for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting

  production options for the production device (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 35-49);

  modifying the interface to allow the user access to the controls for only the production

  options for which the user has permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through

  column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31); and presenting the user with the modified

  interface (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 50-60).

- <Claims 8 and 22>

  The method of Claim 7, wherein the act of modifying comprises: accessing data

  representing production options to which the user does and/or does not have permission

  to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-

  31); and modifying the interface according to the accessed data providing user accessible

controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 35-49).

- <Claims 9 and 23>

  The method of Claim 8, wherein the interface is a web page containing instructions for displaying controls for selecting production options and wherein the instructions are associated with one or more tags each tag identifying a particular production option, wherein the act of altering comprises identifying the tags for production options to which the user does not have access and altering the instructions associated with those tags (Zothner, column 19, line 58 through column 20, line 4).

- <Claims 10 and 24>

  The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of accessing comprises obtaining credentials for the user and locating a record for the user using the credentials, the record containing the data representing production options to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8).

- <Claims 11 and 25>

  The method of Claim 7, wherein the acts of retrieving and modifying are performed on a network device other than the production device (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 4-16).

- <Claims 12 and 26>

  The method of Claim 7 wherein the act of retrieving comprises retrieving the interface in the form of a web page, and the act of presenting comprises presenting the modified web page to a web browser (Adolfsson, column 4, lines 21-23).

- <Claims 13 and 27>

  A method for mediating access to production options, comprising: acquiring a user's access request for a production device (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 21-24); accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data representing the production options for the production device to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); generating a web page for the production device according to the user's record; and presenting the user with the generated interface (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32).

- <Claims 14 and 28>

  A method for mediating access to production options, comprising: acquiring a user's access request for a production device (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 21-24); retrieving a web page for the production device, the web page having user accessible controls for selecting production options (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32); accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data representing the production options for the production device to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); and altering the web page according to the user's record; and presenting the user with the modified web page (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 35-60).

- <Claim 29>

  29. In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the system comprising: a production device (Adolfsson, column 2, lines 64-67); a client operable to identify a target document, issue a user's access request for a selected

production device, and select production options (Adolfsson, column 4, lines 21-23 and

column 5, lines 21-49); a permission service in electronic communication with the client

and the production device, the permission service operable to acquire the access request

for the production device and provide the user with an interface for the production

device, the interface having user accessible controls for only those options for which the

user has permission to access (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32 and Zothner, column 9,

line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31).

- <Claim 30>

  The system of Claim 29, wherein an interface is a web page and the client is a web

  browser (Adolfsson, column 4, lines 21-23).

- <Claim 31>

  The system of Claim 29, further comprising one or more user records accessible by the

  permission service, each user record containing data representing the production options

  to which the user does and/or does not have permission to access for the production

  device (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8).

- <Claim 32>

  The system of Claim 31, further comprising: a production server operable to generate an

  interface according to a user's record (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 4-16); wherein the

  permission service is operable to direct the production server to generate an interface

  according to the user's record and to direct to the client the generated interface

  (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10,

  line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31).

- <Claim 33>

  The system of Claim 31, further comprising: a production server operable to serve an interface according to a user's record, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document; wherein the permission service is operable to retrieve an interface from the production server for a selected production device, modify the interface according to the user's record, and direct to the client the modified interface (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 35-60 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31).

- <Claim 34>

  The system of Claim 31, further comprising a permission engine operable to generate an interface having user accessible controls for managing user records (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8).

- <Claim 35>

  The system of Claim 34, further comprising one or more device records, each device record containing data representing the production options offered by the particular production device, and wherein the permission engine is operable to parse the device records to generate the interface for managing the user records (Adolfsson, column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 10 and column 16, lines 44-50).

- <Claim 36>

  The system of Claim 35, further comprising: a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and an update service operable to create a device record for each

newly detected production device (Adolfsson, column 16, line 51 through column 17, line 5).

- <Claim 37>

In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the system comprising: a production device (Adolfsson, column 2, lines 64-67); one or more user records, each user record containing data representing the production options to which the particular user does and/or does not have permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); a production server in communication with the production device and operable to generate an interface for that production device according to a user record (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32); a client operable to identify a target document, issue a user's access request for the production device, and select production options (Adolfsson, column 4, lines 21-23 and column 5, lines 21-49); a permission service operable to access the user's record, direct the production server to generate an interface for the production device according to the user's record, and to direct to the client the generated interface (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31); one or more device records, each device record containing data representing the production options offered by the particular production device (Adolfsson, column 9, line 66 through column 10, line 10); a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an web page for managing user records (Adolfsson, column 16, lines 44-50 and column 4, lines 21-23 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and an update service operable to create a

device record for each newly detected production device (Adolfsson, column 16, line 51

through column 17, line 5).

• <Claim 38>

In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the

system comprising: a production device (Adolfsson, column 2, lines 64-67); one or more

user records, each user record containing, for each production device, data representing

the production options to which the particular user does and/or does not have permission

to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); a production server in

communication with the production device and operable to serve an interface for that

production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production

options for the production device (Adolfsson, column 3, lines 25-32); a client operable to

identify a target document, issue a user's access request for the production device, and

select production options (Adolfsson, column 4, lines 21-23 and column 5, lines 21-49); a

permission service operable to access the user's record, retrieve the interface from the

production server, modify the interface according to the user's record, and to direct to the

client the modified interface (Adolfsson, column 5, lines 21-60 and Zothner, column 9,

line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31); one or more device

records, each device record containing data representing the production options offered

by the particular production device (Adolfsson, column 9, line 66 through column 10,

line 10); a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an web

page for managing user records (Adolfsson, column 16, lines 44-50 and column 4, lines

21-23 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); a device locator

operable to detect new production devices; and an update service operable to create a

device record for each newly detected production device (Adolfsson, column 16, line 51

through column 17, line 5).

Since the combination of Adolfsson and Zothner discloses all of the above limitations, claims 1-

38 are rejected.

Conclusion

10.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's

disclosure.

- Snyder et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,564,109) disclosed a remote user interface for

  prioritizing and selecting from a plurality of document production peripheral devices.

- Sanchez et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,832,298) disclosed an adaptive graphical user

  interface for a network peripheral.

- Venkatraman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,956,487) disclosed a web server included in a

  device to provide access to the user interface functions for that device through a device

  web page.

- Krishnan (U.S. Patent Number 6,157,950) disclosed methods for coupling a network of

  computers and associated peripheral devices to the Internet.

- Kumpf et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,289,371) disclosed a method for client-server

  scanning that is actively managed through a web browser interface on a client.

- Wood et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,453,127) disclosed a method for establishing an

  Internet user interface to a copier or printer apparatus at a remote location.

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Lesniewski whose telephone number is 571-272-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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